

**VICTORIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT, FINANCIAL YEAR 2011-2012**

My report this year will be one mainly of thanks to the people who have done the work during the year to keep the Association running and to look to the future with change in the ways we operate.

Once again 2011-12 has been financially difficult. The year resulted in a loss of \$27,861. Income from state, club and duplicate competitions was down. The council and members will need to address this in 2013. We hope that you, our members will support the club sessions and so improve our financial result. Thank you to Neil Ewart, our Treasurer, for the excellent and tireless work that he does to keep our records, prepare for the audit and watching our budget.

Thank you to Kim Fraser for the work she and her committee did for the VCC this year. A profit of \$9,893 was achieved. The change in venue was popular with players and hopefully the coming year will produce in a similar result.

Victorian players have continued to have success during this past year. At the ANC, the Seniors Team of G. Ridgway, A. Robbins, S. Arber, H. DeJong, R. Gallus and S. Weisz won their section. The Open team of B. Jacobs, B. Thompson, S. Hinge, L. Gold, P. Hollands and M. Henbest were runners-up. Ben Kingham and Peter Hollands were successful in winning the Australian Open Swiss Pairs in Launceston. Blaine Howe and Chris Hughes were members of the winning Seniors team at the Spring Nationals in Sydney. Congratulations to all these players.

I would like to thank Rob Stewart and Stan Klofa for their work purchasing and installing the new technology used in the VBA. A lot of work has been done which has taken up a large amount of time. Hopefully the members appreciate the scoring displays and information now available after playing sessions. All of this new technology has been funded by the Foundation which was set up by donations and which has been administered by Ian McCance and Di Jacobs this year. I thank them for their work.

Kim Frazer has been very hard working as secretary and has put a lot into research for better management and administration of the VBA. At the last annual meeting some members expressed their concern with the way elections and proxies were conducted and in order to address this a committee of Kim, Prof Michael Bryan, Neil Ewart and Ben Thompson have worked to present changes to our constitution which are before the members at the coming meeting. Thank you to these people for their tireless efforts.

Colin Campbell took over from Sue Kelso as masterpoint secretary this year. It is a difficult task and Colin has done an excellent job. Thank you, Colin.

Once again I thank the staff of the VBA for their efforts. Cathie Lachman has again managed the administration and organisation in an efficient and thoughtful way. Cathie's personality is one of our greatest assets.

Our Chief Tournament Director, Laurie Kelso, has again gone about his duties in an efficient and pleasant manner. The changes in the technology have been time consuming for him to implement. Thank you to our sessional directors, Terry Crawford, Val Daly and Helen Snashall for their loyalty and efforts.

Blaine Howe has been magnificent with his work on the VBA website. His enthusiasm and attention to detail has resulted in a very easily accessed area for members and Victorian clubs in general.

Bill Jacobs has again been producing bulletins that are well worth reading. Thank you to you Bill, for the time and effort you put into this task. It is a great tool for all bridge players whether beginning or experienced. Additionally, Bill is Chair of the Ethics and Discipline Committee and has handled this task admirably.

A special thank you to June Pulford for all the volunteer work she does in assisting Cathie. Thank you to Max Henbest for dealing the many boards used by the Association each week.

The café is now manned by Renata Hroch in a very efficient and pleasant manner. We thank her for her services and also thank Roger Phillips for his 2 years running the cafe.

Thank you also to the members of the current council. They have put in a lot of (voluntary) time and effort over the past year. I must confess that I have been absent for most of the year, catching up on holidays, and it is a good feeling to know that things are being left in capable hands. I would like to single out Ben Thompson for the work he has done in updating and handling a lot of administrative matters. Thank you Ben.

I would also like to thank Stan Klofa who has been on the council for several years and who has done a lot of work with details for the building, re-zoning of the site (resulting in considerable increase in value) and also helping with the technology upgrade. Thank you for your service Stan and for the contribution you have made to the council.

I must thank the Match and Tournament Committee for their efforts during the past year. They have a difficult and challenging job and we are fortunate in having very knowledgeable and fair people to help with the decision making.

The VBA really appreciates our members who continue to support our club. Hopefully in future times our facilities and atmosphere will keep improving and will result in more participation in club and state events.

Personally, I thank all of you for your support over the last eight years and although I am standing down as President, I still look forward to supporting the VBA in any way that I can. My best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and happy bridging in 2013.

Jeannette Collins  
President